THE
DISSEMINATOR
Nova Scotia Provincial Library
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To Chief Librarians:
This electronic information sheet is being distributed to all Regional Librarians and members of the Automation Working Group.

Please distribute this to staff and boards. Thanks.

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ELECTRONIC HIGHWAY/CANARIE POLICY STUDY

On February 2, Marion Pape was invited to be a member of a discussion group to provide views about the access, affordability, interconnectivity and interoperability of networks and services to run on the national electronic highway. This project, sponsored by Industry Canada, was conducted by Decima Research and Angus Telemanagement Group. The information gathered will be incorporated in a consolidated report that will be presented to Industry Canada in the development of a broad based information policy to facilitate the evolution of the electronic highway in Canada.

Discussion group participants have been invited to submit further information in writing to elaborate on issues raised. If you would like to submit comments or would like more information, please contact Marion Pape.

REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENTS

We know that there are several outstanding vacancies for these positions and are actively involved in ensuring that replacements will be appointed as soon as possible. As you may be aware, a new process for appointments has been instituted and one of the aims is to increase representation from groups that have traditionally been under-represented on boards and commissions.

MULTILINGUAL BIBLIOSERVICE (MBS)

Provincial Library just received an MBS document which describes a proposed new service model from the National Library. This is required as a result of budget cuts that are forcing National Library to restructure this service. Copies of the document will be sent to each Chief Librarian. Andrea John will be establishing a format for developing a Nova Scotia strategy on this issue. A National meeting is being proposed for sometime in March and we will need to develop our alternatives in this area.

FREE TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES ON THE WAY

User Services has obtained some surplus copies of telephone directories from MT&T for distribution to the Regional Libraries. Most of them are a year old and are for all areas of Canada and a

few for the United States. There are multiple copies of many of the directories. Carol Morris is compiling a list of what is available and as soon as this is ready, she will send it out by e-mail to the regions, so that the Regional Libraries can request the directories which they would like on a first come, first served basis.

REFERENCE QUESTIONNAIRE STILL GOING STRONG

Carol would like to remind everyone of the questionnaires which are circulated to each region, asking for feedback on the reference answers we provide. At the end of May, she will be asking everyone to send their completed questionnaires to her, for analysis and distribution of the results. We appreciate your cooperation in getting your patrons to fill in the questionnaires!

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

As some of you may be aware, the Nova Scotia Government has implemented a new policy on sexual harassment. Sue Dirani has been appointed and trained as a facilitator in this regard and will be working in cooperation with five other Department of Education employees to inform departmental staff of the new policy and its implications. This goal will be achieved through presentations to departmental staff. For further information contact Sue by e-mail (sdirani).

MANAGEMENT AUDIT

Last Thursday, Marion Pape, Andrea John, Betsy Armstrong and Donna Bourne-Tyson met with Dennis Young of Coopers & Lybrand, one of the consultants working on the management audit of the Department of Education. We discussed the future directions for Provincial Library, with particular reference to information technology. Janet Clark, South Shore Regional Library Chief Librarian, met with Mr. Young as well, to discuss Provincial Library from a user's point of view. The audit will be completed later this month.

BUSINESS INFORMATION CENTRES AND NSPL

An important federal-provincial cooperative effort is underway with the development of Business Information Centres. Provincial Library is involved, making sure that the provision of information

to the public is coordinated, and that services and resources are not duplicated. We also want to make sure that libraries are well-represented on any new project which is relevant to libraries in the province.

The Canada-Nova Scotia Business Information Service Centre is a new avenue for the public, especially business people, to find government programs in support of the development of human resources, products, or domestic or export markets. The Centre has online and other computer databases, research material, and experienced staff who provide in-depth advice for people interested in starting or expanding their own business. Five such centres will open around the province; there is one open in Halifax now.

Marion Pape has been invited to be a member of the Steering Committee and to chair a library sub-committee to examine the ways which libraries, which already offer business information, and these new Centres can cooperate. The intent is to find ways for the libraries and the Centres to coordinate their services to bring citizens the best possible resources, in the most efficient and cost-effective manner. The committee met on Jan. 17 to begin sharing information and learning about opportunities. Laura Jantek and Eric Stackhouse represented the information services of regional public libraries. Let us know if you would like to receive copies of the minutes when they are ready. For more information, contact Andrea John.

CHEBUCTO FREENET

Ed. Note: Greater Metro Halifax will soon have a freenet; one of many throughout the province, hopefully. The name was chosen by a vote recently at a meeting of the Steering Committee working on this project. It is intended to reflect the broad territory that the freenet will cover, which will extend beyond the City of Halifax. Read on for more information about freenets!

[excerpts from Chebucto Freenet Business Plan]

What are Community Networks?

The convergence of telephone and computer network technologies has

provided an opportunity to develop affordable, public access, community-based electronic information services (Community Networks) to meet the needs and expectations of a growing number of Nova Scotians.

The heart of a Community Network is a central computer which stores and retrieves thousands of files of community-relevant information and relays thousands of electronic messages each day among community members and organizations. Yet the soul of a Community network lies in the people who use it and who are free to create as many uses for it as their imagination will allow.

It has become expensive and inefficient for each community agency to develop and maintain its own single-offering, computer-based information service. Now groups can share one cost-effective, interactive and sophisticated computer facility. A Community Network permits each organization to have its own dedicated space on the central computer host, and to determine autonomously how this space is used. The network provides "one stop shopping" for all those seeking community information.

What is Nova Scotia doing to develop Community Networks?

To advance the development of community networks in the metro area, a Steering Committee was formed which includes people representing government, business, libraries, the United Way, universities, and other interests. Freenets are meant to meet the needs of a local community, although dial-in access would be available for anyone who is interested in seeing the metro network - there will also be information that will be of interest to a wider audience.

A Prototype is now available with limited access to gain experience in offering community network services, to build a useful, locally supplied information base, to attract a strong corps of volunteer help, and to establish the basis for future funding.

Provincial Library has played an active role in the development of the community network, by participating on the interim Steering Committee, contributing to the Business Plan, recruiting new information providers, and making sure that libraries across the province have an active role in the development of this exciting new source of information for the public. Stay tuned for the next steps, which are securing financial support and a launch of the

system this spring. For more information, contact Andrea John.

TRAINING HANDOUTS AVAILABLE

Provincial Library is fortunate to have a student from the Atlantic Computer Institute for a work placement. Gerald Pelletier is designing and delivering some computer training sessions on creating directories, basic Lotus 1-2-3, and selected WordPerfect functions such as macros, tables, text boxes and other very useful things. He has developed some handouts which we would be pleased to share with anyone who is interested. Contact Lynne McCulley (lmcculle) if you'd like a copy.

OPAC SEARCHING -- RODENT FREE

When searching the database it is sometimes tempting to use the mouse to exit the application, rather than backing out screen by screen with the F1 key. It is strongly advised NOT to use the mouse. If you find yourself picking up the mouse when you are in the database, you may find it helpful for a time, to put the mouse in a drawer or behind the computer out of sight -- we do! Grabbing it and clicking won't be done automatically if it's not available at your fingertips.

REPORTING OPAC ERRORS

Forms for reporting problems found in the database have been sent out with the last shipment. We hope these will come in handy. They can be copied as needed.

PRINTING A SCREEN -- NOT!

It is not possible to do a print screen from the database as most of you have noticed. The only way to actually get what you see on the screen is to "copy" and "paste" it. For those of you who don't have WordPerfect on the same PC, you can paste the record into Write or Notepad. From Write or Notepad it is then possible to send to the printer. Write and Notepad are found in the Accessories Group icon in the Program Manager. Your Windows manual will be helpful and you can contact Susan Barnes if you need more details.

You will need your mouse for this!

Suggested Interim Solution For Printing

One of the regions found it very helpful to have their record display changed from descriptive to card format. The record is displayed on the screen in the format of a catalogue card. They can then just copy the whole thing and paste it in Write. They are looking at ways of printing it out on a card or possibly on a label that they can stick on a card.

LABEL PROBLEM LICKED!

We are able to print labels from multiLIS now. There is still a small glitch with the cards, but we will be able to make the move to the new system for acquisitions and cataloguing any day now.

THE CASE OF THE VANISHING RECORDS SOLVED

Previously, we reported that records may have been missing from the database. It has been determined that they are not missing, but rather delayed in joining their cohorts on the ISM tape. All previously unaccounted for records will be on the gap tape, and available on a multiLIS terminal near you soon. However, if you suspect that there are more records missing, you can still file a missing record report with the Provincial Bureau of Technical Services, and we will track it down!

NEW CLASSIFICATION POLICY FOR TALKING BOOKS

Technical Services would like to announce that non-fiction Talking Books will now be assigned Dewey Decimal Classification numbers. This will facilitate their physical arrangement and access by subject. The Dewey number will be preceded by the prefix "TALKING BOOK", which will allow these items to be listed together as a special format material on the microfiche catalogue. The Dewey number will be followed by the first three letters of the author's name. Biographies will be cuttered the same way as regular books: 921 and the first three letters of the subject's name.

Please remember that when searching talking books on multiLIS by call number, you must include the prefix "Talking Book" before the Dewey number. Otherwise you will retrieve records for regular

items. Talking Books are also searchable on multiLis by Document Type. Should you have any questions about this, or any other classification policy, please do not hesitate to ask Joanne Irwin.

YOU CAN TELL YOUR PATRONS ABOUT NEW TALKING BOOKS SOONER!

Now that the new talking book titles are being added to the database when they are received, you have an up-to-date listing of all the talking books at NSHPL on the database. Your patrons should be happy to learn that you no longer have to wait for the annual catalogue to be able to let them know when a new title by their favourite author is available. One note -- if you do request new titles from the database through ILL, please make a note that you saw it on the database, in case the title is still in processing. If you have any questions, contact Ann Dunsworth.

ILL IN THE REAL WORLD

In an effort to see (and understand) the needs of the regions in terms of an automated messaging and storage system, Donna and Dale have been making some visits to see how ILL is done in a few regions. They visited South Shore in September, and Donna visited Pictou-Antigonish and Colchester-East Hants last Friday. This week they visited Halifax County. We hope that when we set up the message filing system in WordPerfect that it will be flexible, easy to use and useful for everyone. Thanks to everyone who has taken the time to consult with us about this!

ILL ON THE NATIONAL SCENE

The National Library is looking into the feasibility of offering an automated forwarding service. They are basing their model on the OCLC ILL sub-system, and it would run on AMICUS. Questionnaires have been sent out to provincial libraries and others, to determine if there is an interest in this service. It would be several years before any such service would be up and running, but we will be able to pass on more information to you before that! If you have any questions, please contact Donna Bourne-Tyson.

COMPUTER EQUIPMENT DONATION

Eastern Counties Regional Library was pleased to be the recipient of Marion Pape's TANDY 3000 computer and software. It was delivered via the Donna Bourne-Tyson Courier Service to New Glasgow, and then on to Eastern Counties via the Eric Stackhouse Courier Service.

In a much larger context, the NovaKnowledge Technology Recycling Program is wildly successful in making equipment available to School Boards across the province. A brochure on the program will be sent out to you for your information.

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That's it for this issue. Stay tuned . . . .

If you have any questions or comments about the activities mentioned, please contact the people involved.

We encourage readers to comment on items found in THE DISSEMINATOR and/or make suggestions about content. These comments should be directed to Sue Dirani or Donna Bourne-Tyson.

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